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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PRO-CHON BIOTECH LTD. [IL/IL]; P.O. Box 1482, 76114 Rehovot (IL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): YAYON, Avner [IL/IL]; Moshav Sitria #104, 76834 (IL). ROM, Eran [IL/IL]; Gordon Street 43, 76287 Rehovot (IL).
- (74) Agent: WEBB, Cynthia; Webb & Associates, P.O. Box 2189, 76121 Rehovot (IL).

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(54) Title: ANTIBODIES THAT BLOCK RECEPTOR PROTEIN TYROSINE KINASE ACTIVATION, METHODS OF SCREENING FOR AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: Molecules containing the antigen-binding portion of antibodies that block constitutive and/or ligand-dependent activation of a receptor protein tyrosine kinase, such as fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3), are found through screening methods, where a soluble dimeric form of a receptor protein tyrosine kinase is used as target for screening a library of antibody fragments displayed on the surface of bacteriophage. The molecules of the present invention which block constitutive activation can be administered to treat or inhibit skeletal dysplasia, craniosynostosis disorders, cell proliferative diseases or disorders, or tumor progression associated with the constitutive activation of a receptor protein tyrosine kinase.